

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A multiple exchange instance, comprising:
 - a plurality of exchanges; and
 - a common instance for implementing the exchanges, the exchanges sharing a set of common components and each exchange having a respective view having respective unique components, wherein the common instance comprises a database divided into a plurality of sub-schemas, and wherein each of the exchanges is singularly associated with and implemented within a respective one of the plurality of sub-schemas providing a respective partial view of the common instance, wherein the common components enable a trading partner client of the common instance to perform at least one common communication operation collectively for a plurality of the exchanges, and wherein each of the exchanges is allocated to a different trading partner merchant.
2. (Previously Presented) The multiple exchange instance of Claim 1 wherein the multiple exchanges are implemented within the common instance and wherein the common instance facilitates communication between a first exchange of the exchanges and a second exchange of the exchanges.
3. (Previously Presented) The multiple exchange instance of Claim 1 wherein the multiple exchanges each have a respective operator, and wherein the multiple exchange instance allows each operator to perform input/output using the common components to perform the input/output for each of the respective multiple exchanges.
4. (Currently Amended) The multiple exchange instance of Claim 3 wherein the input/output comprises a collective [[an]] authentication operation for each of the exchanges.

5. (Currently Amended) The multiple exchange instance of Claim 3 wherein the common input/output comprises a collective catalog content input operation for each of the exchanges.

6. (Original) The multiple exchange instance of Claim 3 wherein the common input/output comprises a registration operation for each of the exchanges.

7. (Original) The multiple exchange instance of Claim 1 wherein the multiple exchanges are configured to use communication protocols to communicate with processes external to the common instance.

8. (Original) The multiple exchange instance of Claim 7 wherein the communication protocol is XML (extensible markup language).

9. (Original) The multiple exchange instance of Claim 1 wherein the common instance is implemented using a database program running on one or more computer systems.

10. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable storage medium having stored thereon instructions for causing at least one processor to perform a method for a multiple exchange instance implemented on a server computer system utilizing said at least one processor, the instructions comprising: ~~method comprising the steps of:~~

a) instructions for causing said at least one processor to define defining a common instance using a common schema that defines a database;

b) instructions for causing said at least one processor to slice slicing the common instance into a plurality of exchanges, wherein the common instance is divided into a plurality of sub-schemas, and wherein each of the exchanges is singularly associated with and is implemented within a respective one of the plurality of sub-schemas providing a respective partial view of the common instance and wherein each of the exchanges is allocated to a different merchant trading partner;

- c) instructions for causing said at least one processor to implement implementing a common support architecture for the exchanges;
- d) instructions for causing said at least one processor to implement implementing efficient communication between a first exchange of the exchanges and a second exchange of the exchanges using the common support architecture; and
- e) instructions for causing said at least one processor to present presenting a custom view of the exchanges to respective operators of the exchanges; and
- f) instructions for causing said at least one processor to perform, at the direction of a trading partner client of the common instance, at least one common communication operation collectively for a plurality of the exchanges.

11. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable storage medium of Claim 10 wherein the exchanges share a set of common components within the common support architecture and wherein the custom view has respective unique components.

12. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable storage medium of Claim 10 wherein said instructions for causing said at least one processor to implement implementing efficient communication includes implementing the multiple exchanges within the common instance for facilitating communication between the first exchange and the second exchange.

13. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable storage medium of Claim 10, wherein the instructions further comprise: method further comprises the step of:
instructions for causing said at least one processor to perform performing input/output using the common components for each of the multiple exchanges, the input/output performed by the respective operators.

14. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable storage medium of Claim 13 wherein the input/output comprises [[an]] a collective authentication operation for each of the exchanges.

15. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable storage medium of Claim 13 wherein the common input/output comprises a catalog content input operation for each of the exchanges.

16. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable storage medium of Claim 13 wherein the common input/output comprises a registration operation for each of the exchanges.

17. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable storage medium of Claim 10 wherein the exchanges are configured to use communication protocols to communicate with processes external to the common instance.

18. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable storage medium of Claim 17 wherein the communication protocol is XML (extensible markup language).

19. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable storage medium of Claim 10 wherein said instructions that cause said at least one processor to define comprise instructions that cause said at least one processor to implement defining includes implementing the common instance using a database program.

20. (Currently Amended) A multiple exchange instance, comprising: a plurality of exchanges; and

a common database for implementing the exchanges within a common schema, the exchanges sharing a set of common components and each exchange having a respective view having respective unique components, wherein the common schema is divided into a plurality of sub-schemas, and wherein each of the exchanges is singularly associated with and is implemented within a respective one of the plurality of subschemas providing a respective partial view of the common schema, and wherein each of the exchanges is allocated to a different merchant, and wherein the exchanges each have a respective operator, allowing an operator to use the common components to perform input/output using the common components to perform the collective input/output for each a group of the exchanges.

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21. (Previously Presented) The multiple exchange instance of claim 20, wherein the multiple exchange instance provides registration for a group of exchanges simultaneously.